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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Joachim GRABSCHEID et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731

Serial No : 10/032,011

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : December 31, 2001

For : APPLICATION DEVICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby direct the Examiner's attention to the following documents which were cited in a German Search Report issued on August 1, 2001, in connection with German Application No. 101 15 726.6 and/or cited and discussed in the instant application:

(1) DE 24 45 602 to Douglas SHORTRIDGE et al is listed in the German Search Report, with particular attention being directed to claims 1, 6, and 9, as being particularly relevant by itself (Category "X") with regard to claims 1-9, 11, and 12 of the German Application;

(2) FR 12 03 381 to TROCKENTECHNIK G.m.b.H. is listed in the German Search Report, with particular attention being directed to "cleaning 8" (presumably cleaning

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device 8), as being particularly relevant by itself (Category "X") with regard to claim 10 of the German Application;

(3) DE 196 27 456 to Benjamin MÉNDEZ et al is listed in the German Search Report, as being relevant with respect to at least one claim or general technological background (Category "A") with regard to claim 9 of the German Application;

(4) DE 39 29 561 to Klaus REITZ et al is listed in the German Search Report, as being particularly relevant with a document discussed in the present application (Category "D") with regard to claim 1 of the German Application; and as being relevant with respect to at least one claim or general technological background (Category "A") with regard to claim 1 of the German Application; and is discussed in the specification beginning in paragraph [0002] of the instant application;

(5) EP 09 60 656 to Stefan WINHEIM et al is listed in the German Search Report, as being particularly relevant with a document discussed in the present application (Category "D") with regard to claim 1 of the German Application; and as being relevant with respect to at least one claim or general technological background (Category "A") with regard to claim 1 of the German Application; and is discussed in the specification beginning in paragraph [0002] of the instant application;

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(6) DE 199 21 592 to Ingolf CEDRA et al is listed in the German Search Report, as being particularly relevant with a document discussed in the present application (Category "D") with regard to claim 1 of the German Application; and as being relevant with respect to at least one claim or general technological background (Category "A") with regard to claim 1 of the German Application; and is discussed in the specification beginning in paragraph [0002] of the instant application.

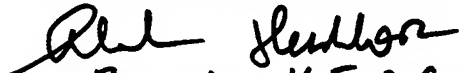
Copies of the above-noted documents are enclosed together with a copy of the German Search Report and a duly completed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is accordingly requested to consider each of these documents, and to make them of record in this application by initialing in the appropriate spaces on the Form PTO-1449. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner include a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1), this Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the filing date of the application. Accordingly, no fees are required.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joachim GRABSCHEID et al.

  
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March 27, 2002  
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